

I urge my colleagues to vote for Cut, Cap, and Balance.

#### CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the drastic cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and other crucial Federal programs that passage of the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act would force upon the American people. The Cut, Cap, and Balance Act takes our Nation closer to default by holding the debt ceiling hostage until Congress passes a constitutional amendment to limit total Federal spending to 18 percent of our gross domestic product.

The last time Federal spending was below 18 percent of the gross domestic product was 1966, when the median age was nearly 8 years younger and the average cost of health care was one-fifth of what it is today. Even under President Ronald Reagan, Federal spending averaged over 22 percent of gross national product. Though this legislation may claim to exempt many Federal programs from its spending limitations, there is almost no possible way to revert Federal spending back to 1960s levels without sharp cuts to every program, including Social Security and Medicare. Even the FY 2012 budget that the House Republican majority passed in April, which would dismantle Medicare as we know it, allowed for Federal spending to be above 20 percent of the gross domestic product.

I urge my colleagues on both sides to vote to support America's retirees, veterans, and children and oppose this dangerous legislation.

#### CONTROL THE ATF, NOT GUNS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, under the ATF's Operation Fast and Furious, straw purchasers bought and sold guns to Mexican drug cartels while the ATF watched. It is hard to understand why the ATF is complicit in the drug smuggling business. Maybe the government hoped it would lead to more gun control, but unfortunately, it led to murder.

Border Patrol agent Brian Terry and ICE agent Jaime Zapata were killed by guns that were trafficked into Mexico under this operation. Rather than investigate this ill-conceived and dangerous operation, the Federal Government is doing what it does best, creating gun control regulations to solve a problem it created. The President's new discriminatory Executive order requires border States to report purchases of two or more rifles to the ATF, the very agency that purposely and incompetently let over 2,000 guns go to Mexico, 1,400 of which are still

missing. This administration ignores the obvious. It's not the gun; it's the shooter. And in this case, it's the Federal Government's recklessness and stupidity that led to at least two murders. It's time to control the ATF, not guns.

And that's just the way it is.

#### COMMEMORATING COLOMBIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the rich history of Colombia as we mark Colombian Independence Day on July 20. We honor the people of Colombia and those individuals of proud Colombian descent who are celebrating more than 200 years of independence.

Colombians have been immigrating to Rhode Island for the past 50 years, and I would like to thank them for their great contributions to our State. Simon Bolivar led the people of Colombia in the first raising of their flag, signifying their sovereignty and the birth of one of the most culturally rich nations in all of Latin America. Today we celebrate a great country, its people, their traditions, and the mark they have made on cities like Central Falls, Providence, and Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and others, adding to the vibrancy of these communities. For that alone, I am proud to honor your heritage and the difference you have made.

And as I pay tribute to the people of the great Nation of Colombia, I also want to, again, extend my thoughts and sympathies to Colombians everywhere for the suffering that continues to occur because of the floods in your country. May we continue to be inspired to support the people of Colombia through this difficult time as we celebrate Colombian Independence Day and honor the enormous contributions of Colombian Americans.

□ 1210

#### CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today we will have the opportunity to vote for a solution on the impending debt ceiling issue in Washington. The Cut, Cap, and Balance Act of 2011 will cut \$111 billion of spending next year; it will cap the total Federal spending for the next 10 years; and, finally, it will require the passage of a balanced budget amendment before raising the national debt limit.

This year the Federal Government will spend twice the amount it spent just 10 years ago. The government has a spending problem. It is not a lack of revenue, and it must be addressed to protect senior citizens.

Where are the liberals' plans? It's been over 800 days since the liberals passed a budget in the Senate.

The President's failed plan does not cut spending. Instead, it just raises taxes in a recession, killing jobs.

I hope both parties can come together to enact the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act, which I am grateful to have cosponsored to benefit the young people of our country.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, last year my Republican colleagues ran their campaign on the slogan: "Where are the jobs?" It's been 28 weeks since the Republicans took control of the House, and the question still remains: Where are the jobs?

We all know that the Bush tax for the wealthy failed to create new jobs. They fooled the public once. It ain't going to happen again.

Now, instead of working to create jobs, Republicans are holding our country hostage, taking the debt limit talks to the brink.

Under the Republican budget proposal, seniors will lose guaranteed medical benefits, have their out-of-pocket medical expenses double. The Republican plan will reopen the Medicare doughnut hole area, costing 4 million seniors an additional \$2.2 billion. It's wrong to make our seniors suffer to give a tax break to the ultrarich and corporations that ship jobs overseas.

No new taxes, no new jobs. No taxes, no jobs. No taxes, no jobs.

Let's put together a plan that lowers our deficit without doing it on the backs of our seniors and the middle class.

#### CO-OP DEFAULTS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, would you invest in a company if there were a 40 percent chance that you would lose all of your money? That doesn't sound like much of an investment. Most people would call that gambling. But that is exactly what the Federal Government is about to do in setting up the new ObamaCare health care co-ops.

The Department of HHS will loan more than \$4 billion in the coming years as an attempt to set up at least one co-op in each State. They project that 40 percent of the loans given out to plan the co-ops will go into default. 35 percent of the loans to keep the co-ops solvent are also projected to go into default. This could add up to billions of dollars lost.

We raised taxes by more than \$1 trillion so that we could burn it away on

projects with an extremely high rate of failure. When we take money away from the private sector and then burn it away on government projects, the result is going to be lost jobs and a struggling economy.

We need jobs, not more failed government programs.

#### MEAN-SPIRITED STINGERS

(Mr. CLEAVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, this is a very sad time for me and, I hope, for others. Unemployment is at 9.2 percent. For African Americans, it's at 16.2. If you use the Labor Department's U6 standards, it's almost 30 percent. And all we want to do here is argue—argue.

These are real human beings who are out here struggling. I saw a lady the other day working at a hotel, cleaning up, with a college degree from Howard University. She can't get a job.

And so what are we going to do in Congress? While Congress likes to bash, the jobless need cash.

What do we need to do to get things going? Well, we need to stop being so mean. Mean, that's what we are down here.

A bumblebee cannot sting and make honey at the same time. And what we have decided to be in Congress is a big group of 435 stingers.

#### SEPARATING WANTS FROM NEEDS

(Mr. LANDRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANDRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm new to Washington; so sometimes I don't understand why this town makes everything so hard.

For decades now, this town has squandered the wealth of the people of the United States. And, yes, it is the people's money, not Washington's.

Our spending is 24 percent of our economy. Our revenue is 15 percent. And 24 is larger than 15. What we spend is more than we take in. We have a spending problem here.

Mr. President, stop the class warfare and end the threats to our seniors. You know they are the most vulnerable, and it is they who have carried the burden of this government's reckless spending for decades.

Since you refuse to lead with a plan, we have. I'm sorry you don't like our plan, but you don't have a plan or have not put a plan forward.

We must get America's fiscal house in order. To do so will require fiscal discipline and sacrifices. We must separate our wants from our needs. This bill forces us to do that.

It is the responsible thing to do, and it is the only way to guarantee the future solvency of the United States and the protection of our citizens from an out-of-control government.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE U.S. WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

(Ms. HOCHUL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, while we are preoccupied with the weighty issues of the day, we also need to take a moment to acknowledge what is also good.

Today I'd like to recognize an exceptionally strong and inspiring group of women, the United States women's soccer team. Despite fierce competition, these women overcame insurmountable odds and made it through five rounds of play, doing us all proud.

What is most exciting to me is that two of our strongest players hail from western New York: Abby Wambach, born and raised in Rochester; and Alex Morgan, who currently plays for the Western New York Flash. These two women gave the United States our goals, proving to be tremendous athletes that deserve our recognition. So thanks to Abby and Alex and the entire team for making all western New Yorkers and America proud. And I would like to note that they work together as a team on behalf of America.

I think there are some lessons that we should take from these inspiring women, and I'd be very proud to welcome them to our Capitol and give them a tour of this distinguished body.

#### SUPPORT THE CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE ACT

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, we received word yesterday that the President has threatened to veto the bill we will consider later today, H.R. 2560, the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act. As a co-sponsor of this bill, I can't disagree more.

We have a spending problem, not a revenue problem. For the President to threaten to veto a serious proposal that will put our country back on the path to fiscal responsibility demonstrates his stubborn insistence on continuing reckless spending and debt. If the President wants to continue to disregard the voice of the people, then he will veto this bill, despite never presenting a plan of his own.

The President will do what he chooses to do, but I will do what the people and our Nation's future demand. Unless we want to face even longer-term economic difficulties, the President should reconsider his position and support this plan that cuts spending and encourages job growth.

#### BACK TO 1966

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, we've heard at rallies all across the country

over the last couple of years: We want to take our country back. Well, today, when we're voting on the so-called Cut, Cap, and Balance Act, we now know where they want to take our country back to—1966. Those are the spending levels that would be required if we pass Cut, Cap, and Balance.

Now, there were a lot of cool things about 1966. Gas was 25 cents a gallon. The average car cost about \$3,400, a new car. A home was \$20,000, and eggs were 55 cents a dozen. It would be nice if we could pay those prices again. It would be nice if our seniors who are cared for by doctors and hospitals could rely on that kind of 1966 pricing. Unfortunately, they can't.

So what cut, cap, and balance would really mean is slash, shred, and punish. Slash the budget, shred the safety net, and punish the American citizens who can least afford it, all while protecting the wealthiest, most successful and the most specially treated people in this country—our millionaires, billionaires, oil companies, and giant corporations.

I urge all of our colleagues to reject the reckless Republican agenda known as "cut, cap, and balance."

□ 1220

#### FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

(Mr. CANSECO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, as I talk to residents of the 23rd Congressional District of Texas that I have the privilege to represent, the top concern about which I hear is the need to create jobs.

For 2 years, President Obama and Washington liberals attempted to spend and borrow our way to a better economy. It simply didn't work. Trillions of dollars later, all we have is a national debt that every American household has over \$120,000 of its share, and 29 straight months of unemployment at 8 percent or higher, the longest streak since the Great Depression.

There's another way to create jobs: Pass the pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. According to the Business Roundtable, these three agreements alone will create more than 250,000 jobs. At a time when over 14 million Americans are unemployed, it's time to put the politics aside and pass these three job-creating agreements. The time has come to pass the Colombia, Panama, and South Korea Free Trade Agreements.

#### RYAN BUDGET WITH LIPSTICK IS COMING TO THE HOUSE TODAY

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Cut, Cap, and Balance is not a jobs bill; it's a job-killing bill. It's a new way of trying to